



Dear Citizens,

As my administration works to cut into the violent crime rate in Baltimore City, we are always looking for successful crime-reducing initiatives used by cities across the country. I do not believe we need to reinvent an initiative if one is already working in another major urban city. We need to apply tested methods to create a lasting impact in our most vulnerable communities.

For some of our neighborhoods, an initiative from Chicago called Operation Safe Streets appears to provide the solutions the residents need. This week I announce the second of two planned sites for Operation Safe Streets, which focuses on community-based violence prevention to reduce shootings and homicides in Baltimore City.

Operation Safe Streets is based on the 'CeaseFire' model developed at the University of Illinois School of Public Health in Chicago. 'CeaseFire' works with community-based organizations to develop and implement strategies to reduce and prevent violence, particularly shootings and killings. The model relies on outreach workers, faith leaders, and other community leaders to intervene in conflicts, or potential conflicts, and promote alternatives to violence. The model incorporates a focus on individual behavior change, working with individuals to develop alternatives to the use of violence and providing connection to services. Along with cooperation from police, 'CeaseFire' includes a strong public education campaign to provide the message that shootings and violence are not acceptable.

Since its launch in 2000, Ceasefire has been successfully operating in 15 of Chicago's high-crime neighborhoods. With the collaboration of community groups, outreach teams, law enforcement and clergy, communities experienced reductions in shootings up to 68% in the first year of implementation.

In June 2007, Baltimore launched the first Safe Streets site in a portion of the McElderry Park and Madison East neighborhoods. The operations were overseen by the Living Classrooms Foundation. Funding for the initiative comes from a grant from the U.S. Department of

Justice, administered by the Baltimore City Health Department.

The newest award is being made to Communities Organized to Improve Life, Inc. (COIL, Inc.), to implement Operation Safe Streets in Southwest Baltimore. COIL, Inc. has extensive experience in providing community outreach, education, and violence prevention services to at-risk adolescents and young adults in Southwest Baltimore.

The exact community in Southwest will be selected based on shooting and homicide data for Southwest Baltimore.

Knowing the success of Operation Safe Streets in Chicago, I am excited to see what this can do for Baltimore. I am confident that we can make this city safer for every resident.

As always, I am interested in what you think about our plan to make our city a dynamic place to LIVE, EARN, PLAY and LEARN. Please [email me](#) your comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon
Mayor
Baltimore

GreenCityBaltimore / Gwynns Falls Trail Council Art on the Gwynns Falls Trail Photo Safari

August 12, 2007

Sunday, August 12
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Winans Meadow at Leakin Park
Baltimore

Pack your lunch and camera and bring your family, friends and neighbors to Winans Meadow at Leakin Park to view, enjoy, and photograph the 2007 Art on the Trail exhibit--brought to you by GreenCityBaltimore and the Gwynns Falls Trail Council.

Tour the show, talk with artists, historians and naturalists about the park, the Crimea Estate, and the Greater Gwynns Falls Trail.

Enjoy lots of fun events for adults and kids throughout the day including live music, a Native American "healing flute" exercise, "sun" photo projects, and the trains at the Crimea Estate.

Then participate in the GreenCityBaltimore photo contest at Flickr.com, with contest prizes to be awarded at the Art on the Trail's closing ceremony on Sept 2.

For more event info, see the GreenCityBaltimore [Events Page](#).

For more trail info/ directions to the trail, visit the Gwynns Falls [home page](#).

For event questions or to volunteer, contact Lois at greencitybaltimore@yahoo.com or (202) 302-1478.

CityScaping State Center Stakeholder Meeting

August 25, 2007

10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m.

Shake & Bake Family Fun Center
1601 Pennsylvania Avenue
Baltimore

The State of Maryland, the City of Baltimore and the State Center Development Team, and the Neighborhood Alliance are actively planning for the future of State Center. On August 25th we will be brainstorming and sharing our greatest ideas and hopes for the future of State Center. Come and participate in this phase of CityScaping – “Vision” and consider the possibilities!

For more information visit www.statecenter.org

Baltimore Heritage Area Now Soliciting Grant Applications

Deadline is August 22, 2007

August 22, 2007 is the application deadline for the **Baltimore Heritage Area Small Cap Grant Fund**.

The Fund provides matching grants of up to \$10,000 for capital projects within the Baltimore Heritage Area. For a copy of the application and instructions, log on to www.baltimorecity.gov/government/heritage and click on “What are the benefits of inclusion in the Baltimore City Heritage Area?” and “view the application.”

For more information, contact Abbi Wicklein-Bayne
e-mail: abbi.wicklein-bayne@baltimorecity.gov
Phone: (443) 984-2369.

Baltimore Farmers' Market

Sundays Under the JFX

Baltimore Farmers' Market:

farmers, and delight in homemade treats. In addition, food vendors add spice to the market with cultural cuisine, popular pit beef sandwiches, pastries, cheeses, and gourmet treats.

Sundays, May 6 - December 23, 2007
8am to sellout, approximately noon

Holliday and Saratoga streets underneath the Jones Falls Expressway

Activities for the Whole Family

Special Events All Around Baltimore

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks offers activities for city residents and guests - educational hikes and walks, sports leagues, youth and senior activities, and fun for the family.

Please visit [Rec & Parks' Events Calendar](#) for dates and times.



TV25: The True View of Baltimore

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